

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SOUTHERN WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866.

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THE AFRICAN WAR.

No Confirmation of the Reported British Disaster.

London, April 12, 5.10 a. m.—There is little fresh intelligence from the seat of war in South Africa. It looks as though Lord Roberts may be preparing to take a strong force to clear the Boers from behind him.

A Cape Town dispatch says he will not move for another week, owing to the necessity of gathering stores and supplies.

Sir William Gatacre's sudden removal is the theme of much speculation. The exact manner in which it is connected with the Reddersburg affair, although there are many who consider that there must be something much more serious, as other generals in South Africa have been retained in command after blunders more formidable than Gatacre's.

The war office has received no news of the death of Col. Baden-Powell and utterly discredits the rumor.

The operations in Natal have not yet been fully explained. There appears to have been an attempt to outflank the British at Elands-laagte and to sever them from their base at Ladysmith.

London, April 12.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of The Times telegraphing Wednesday, says: "It is announced in general orders that Gen Sir Herbert Chermside has been appointed to the command of the Third division vice Gen Sir William Gatacre 'ordered home to England.'"

"Gen Brabant's force is confident of being able to hold out."
"The Boers, after showing considerable dash, have wavered on reaching the final issue and have struck at last the vital point, where they are greatly handicapped by their proximity to the Beasote border."

"Owing to the strategical concentrations since the enemy's movements became defined there need be little anxiety as to the safety of the Cape border. No organized invasion of Cape Colony is now possible except under extreme risks, which Commandant Olivier is not likely to take, especially as his horses are reported to be greatly exhausted."

FIGHTING AT ELANDSLAAGTE

Ladysmith, Tuesday, April 10.—The Boers opened this morning early sending shells into the British camp at Elands-laagte from three positions widely separated. The shells did no damage. The troops moved out to reconnoitre and found the Boers in a strong force and well fortified. A naval 4.7 inch inch gun replied to the Boers, who have again placed a Long Tom in position.

Another command was seen moving toward the British left, apparently with the intention of flanking them but the British shells forced them to retire. The British advance pickets were continually sniped but few casualties have been reported.

In the afternoon the naval brigade again fired a few shells.
It is rumored that a body of Boers has gathered southwest of Elands-laagte with the apparent intention of cutting the British line of communications.

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

London, April 11.—The war office issued this afternoon a return of the total British casualties up to April 7. It was as follows:

Killed in action 211 officers and 1,960 men; died of wounds 48 officers and 465 men; missing and prisoners, 168 officers and 3,722 men; died of disease 47 officers and 1,485 men; accidental deaths, 3 officers and 34 men; repatriated invalids, 288 officers and 4,934 men; total, 13,365, exclusive of the sick and wounded now in hospitals.

To the war office returns of casualties must be added the losses of the last week and the wounded aggregating about 10,000, making a grand total of upwards of 23,000 officers and men put out action.

BIG GUNS FOR THE BOERS.

London, April 11.—The correspondent of the Times at Lourenço Marques, telegraphing Monday, says: "Trust-

worthy refugees assert that the Boers recently obtained at least thirty pieces of artillery, some of large calibre, which were brought overland as machinery from a West African port. Eight of these guns were dispatched to the Free State a week ago. The Boer officials openly boast that they have succeeded in smuggling ammunition through Portuguese territory.

Roberts Reports Garrison Holding out. Reinforcements Sent up.

London, April 11.—Lord Roberts wires to the war office from Bloemfontein under date of Tuesday, April 10, as follows: "The enemy have been very active during the past few days. One commando is now on the north bank of Orange river, not far from Aliwal North, while another is attacking Wepener. The garrison is holding out bravely and has inflicted serious loss on Boers. Maj Spragg of the Cape mounted troops was killed. No other casualties have been reported as yet. The troops are being moved up rapidly. A parcel of six men of the Seventh Dragoon Guards, under Lieut Wetherly, which had been reported missing since April 7, has returned safely."

As the foregoing does not mention the alleged British reverse on Saturday at Meerkatsfontein, the Boer telegrams are not credited at the war office and they are further discredited on account of the discrepancies in the dispatches, as Meerkatsfontein in one message is located near Brandfort, and in another is located southeast of Bloemfontein, the places being 100 miles apart.

Roberts Said to be Preparing to Crush the Boers.

London, April 13, 4.05 a. m.—In a roundabout way London hears that Lord Roberts, when wiring to the Prince of Wales at Copenhagen congratulations upon his escape from assassination, added two or three hopeful sentences portending an early advance with wide reaching combinations.

Quiet assurances are passed around among military men that Lord Roberts is employing his great army effectively and that the adventurous commandos are likely to be annihilated. Scrapes of news—a detail here and another there—have reached England tonight over comparatively idle cables, but they do not illuminate the situation.

The colonials at Wepener still hold off the Boers. Lord Methuen has worked eastward until he is within 30 miles of Kroonstad. Boer scouts have gone around Ladysmith and have appeared at Dewdrop and other places on Gen Buller's flanks and rear. The officers of Buller's irregular horse estimate the Boers in Natal at 18,000, but these figures are probably excessive, 10,000 being regarded here as the outside number.

After Gen Hart's brigade leaves him Gen Buller will still have close upon 35,000 men. It is generally assumed that this brigade is going to join Lord Roberts, but its destination is really unknown.

The Boers have issued a note to Portugal regarding the used by the British of the Beira route for transportation of troops to Rhodesia and this may, if the Boers set against Portugal, lead Great Britain to land troops at Lorenzo Marques. This possibility has been seriously discussed and is referred to at length in the morning papers today.

The work of the Boer peace commissioners has begun. Mr Fischer has asked Italy to intervene and the Italian minister of foreign affairs, the Marquis di Visconti Venosta, has replied that while he would receive the envoys, the best he could do would be to transmit their proposals to London, thus following the course of the United States.

Sir Alfred Milner, when replying to a deputation of clegymen in Cape Town yesterday (Thursday), said: "Never again must be the motto of all thinking and humane men, but not from lust of conquest or a desire to trample on the gallant, if misguided. There must be no compromise or patchwork in the settlement, and no opportunity for misunderstanding, intrigue, the revival of impossible ambition, or the accumulation of enormous armaments."

"The British will no longer tolerate dissimilar and antagonistic political systems in a country which nature and history have declared to be one."

In these absolute utterances of Sir Alfred Milner he speaks for the imperial government.
It is calculated that Lord Roberts has now 214,000 effective troops, with 12,000 more afloat or under orders. The war office has instructed officers not to take any more expanding bullets to Africa for revolvers.

Hildyard Steyn, brother of President Steyn, in the course of an interview at Bloemfontein, said: "The original war plan of the Boers was to overrun all Cape Colony, but on becoming involved in the sieges of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the burghers found the design spoiled. To this I attribute the Boer failure to conquer the British. I expect the war to last until Christmas."

The seventh month of the war is beginning with Easter tide, and the morning paper editors expatiate upon the need of soberness.

Roberts Reports Check of Advance on His Communications.

London, April 14, 4.15 a. m.—"The forward movement of the Boers is checked," says Lord Roberts. This is taken to mean, not by fighting but by dispositions to head off further advance and bar their way to vulnerable points in the line of British communications.

Relief is on the way to Wepener. The Boers in Natal appear incapable of developing an aggressive movement at Elands-laagte.

Lord Methuen is at Zwartkopfontein, 12 miles east of Boshof, and is sending small swift columns through the adjacent country. Lord Chesham, commanding one of these, encountered a small commando about ten miles southeast of Zwartkopfontein. He found most of the farms occupied by women and children only.

An editorial note in the Daily Mail avers that Mafeking is in a very bad way and that the hope of relief is far off, as no force is advancing from the south.

The war office announces that four thousand horses will arrive at the Cape this week. It is well understood that the animals are not fit for work until about ten days after the voyage. Two thousand more are due at the Cape next week.

The war office has called out the reserve companies of several infantry battalions which will be sent to South Africa forthwith.

The Boer peace envoys have documents—the Rome correspondent of the Daily News says—showing that urgent advances to the Transvaal to wage war were originally made by Germany. This correspondent also asserts that Count von Buelow, the German foreign minister, who was said to have gone on a visit to a sick brother, really went to Milan for the express purpose of conferring with the delegates.

London, April 13, 9.10 p. m.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen Roberts:

"Bloemfontein, April 13, 1.30 p. m. The enemy's movements south have been checked. Wepener is still surrounded but the little garrison is holding out well. Troops are being moved to their assistance."

"The health of the troops is good and the climate perfect."

BOERS CHANGING TACTICS.

London, April 14.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of The Morning Post telegraphing Thursday, says:

"The enemy have evidently determined to adopt entirely new tactics. The columns are known to be moving to the south of Bloemfontein. They are relying on Cape carts for transport and are carrying scarcely any forage and only sufficient food to meet the immediate requirements of the convoy with ox transport following at a secure distance. The Boer columns are thus enabled to move almost as quickly as cavalry."

"It is reported that there are 9,000 Boers to the south of Dewet's drop. The force extends from that point to Odenhall. The burghers who had returned to their farms are undoubtedly rejoining the enemy."

"Lord Roberts has appointed the Duke of Marlborough to be assistant military secretary at headquarters."

London, April 14.—The Daily Telegraph has the following from Elands-laagte dated April 13: "The Boers are changing their tactics and are moving from Glencoe westward with a view of threatening our lines of communication to Ladysmith."

On Tuesday a corps of Carbineers and another of Thorneycroft's Horse narrowly escaped being cut off, owing to the treachery of a Kaffir and a native guide."

FIGHTING AT WEPENER.

Bloemfontein, April 13.—Accounts received here of the fighting of the troops under Col Dalgaty at Wepener show the Boers attacked them vigorously but were repulsed with great loss. The Boers subsequently relinquished the attack and it is said here they are returning northwards.

Dr E. A. Alderman, president of the University of North Carolina, has been elected president of Tulane University, New Orleans.

Bradstreet's Review of Trade for the Week.

Backward Spring Weather Retarded Distribution.

New York, April 13.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: Backward spring weather conditions have figured considerably in distributive trade reports this week, and, in connection with some weakness in prices of leading staples, have imparted an appearance of irregularity to the general situation. Another one of those downward swings in the prices of agricultural staples is exhibited this week in slightly lowered prices for the cereals, partly because of the bearish position of immediate supplies and partly because of the better than expected government crop report, which is taken to indicate a possible winter wheat yield in excess of all records. The crop outlook as a whole favors the expectation of large yields of wheat, corn and cotton. Corn and oats have sympathized with the reaction in pork products, which reaction, however, has not been universal, as shown by the fact that lard is at the highest point reached on the present boom. Cotton exports in March were three times those of a year ago in value and for seven months are 7 per cent greater in value, while 23 per cent smaller in quantity.

Evidences accumulate that active missionary work in favor of lower prices for iron and steel is at last bearing fruit. Pig iron is no lower and stocks as a whole are claimed to be no larger than a month ago, but steel products have weakened noticeably during the week, billets noting the sharpest decline, with corresponding decreases in some other products. The other metals show little change on the week, copper being in continued good demand and firm, while tin is speculatively weaker and lead is strong at previous prices. The hardware trade returns good reports as a whole, relatively best advices coming from western distributive centres.

A slight upward swing in cotton is to be noted this week and southern mills have officially advanced prices. On the other hand, while the mills are active on old orders new business is reported of smaller volume. Some more inquiry is noted in raw wool, without, however, affecting values appreciably. The strength of raw sugar is a reflection chiefly of the fact that a considerable shortage is looked for in the supplies of cane sugar, not only in Cuba, but in the far east. The margin between raw and refined allows of no profit at present quotations. Anthracite coal is rather weak at the decline shown from the winter list price, but bituminous is strong and active, particularly on foreign account.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 2,896,653 bushels, against 3,836,963 bushels last week, 1,933,619 bushels in the corresponding week of 1899; 4,425,302 bushels in 1898; 1,344,012 bushels in 1897 and 2,017,579 bushels in 1896. Since July 1 this season the exports of wheat aggregate 153,906,296 bushels against 190,329,159 bushels last year and 188,271,580 bushels in 1897-98. Corn exports for the week aggregated 2,799,443 bushels against 4,361,591 bushels last week, 2,666,125 bushels in this week a year ago, 4,661,194 bushels in 1898; 2,323,485 bushels in 1897 and 1,074,542 bushels in 1896. Since July 1 this season corn exports aggregate 162,922,649 bushels against 133,955,804 bushels during the same period a year ago and 143,769,843 bushels in 1897-98.

Business failures for the week number 152 as compared with 182 in the United States last week, 243 in this week a year ago and 215 in 1898; 195 in 1897 and 244 in 1896. Failures in the Dominion of Canada for the week number 35 as compared with 25 last week and in this week a year ago, 27 in 1898, 39 in 1897 and 34 in 1896.

Washington, April 9.—In the case of Edward B. Wesley vs Howard Peeler, the United States supreme court today decided that a specific performance of a contract on the part of a purchaser of property could not be enforced when it is found that the purchaser is buying a law suit. The case involved the validity of revenue bond scrip issued by the State of South Carolina nine years since, but this point was not decided by the opinion.

London, April 10.—The Cape Town correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing Sunday, says: "I have received information to the effect that negotiable securities of the value of 130,000 pounds, which were lodged by law with the Free State government by foreign insurance companies, have disappeared. The New York Mutual Life Insurance company has issued a warning against dealing in them."

TIME TO CUT SOME WAR TAXES.

Collecting Eighty Millions More Than He Can Expend.

Washington, April 10.—The secretary of the treasury today sent to congress his reply to the house resolution of April 2d, which called for information as to whether, in his opinion, the present revenue laws are creating and will continue to create a surplus in the treasury, and if so, to what extent at the end of the current fiscal year, also his estimates of the probable receipts of the treasury from all sources of revenue for those years, and also the amount of internal revenue taxes received under the war revenue act upon articles not heretofore taxed.

The secretary in his reply estimates the surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, at \$70,000,000 as follows:

Receipts—Customs, \$233,000,000; internal revenue, \$292,000,000; miscellaneous, \$35,000,000. Total, \$560,000,000.

Expenditures—Civil, \$14,000,000; war, \$135,000,000; navy, \$55,000,000; Indians, \$11,000,000; pensions, \$143,000,000; interest, \$42,000,000. Total, \$490,000,000.

The surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, is estimated at \$82,000,000, as follows: Receipts, customs \$240,000,000; internal revenue, \$300,000,000; miscellaneous, \$37,000,000. Total, \$577,000,000. Expenditures, civil, \$115,000,000; interest, \$40,000,000. Total, \$495,000,000.

Total internal revenue taxes received under the war revenue act upon articles not heretofore taxed was \$79,055,249. This amount includes \$45,724,541 for the fiscal year 1899 and \$33,330,708 for the first nine months of fiscal year 1900. Under schedule "A" \$38,618,081 is given for 1899 and \$37,439,622 for first six months of fiscal year 1900; under schedule "B" \$5,219,727 and \$3,403,800; legacies \$1,235,435 and \$1,660,872; excise tax, \$643,446 and \$820,010; mixed flour, \$7,841 and \$6,314.

READY FOR WAR.

Managua, Nicaragua, March 26.—The warlike movements which for several months past have been going on in three of the Central American states, Salvador and Costa Rica on the one side, and Nicaragua on the other, large numbers of men being impressed into the army of each state and drilled daily have reached a condition of completeness. But the indications now are that there will be no war at present or in the near future, owing, in part to the fact that while Salvador has much the largest and best equipped and drilled army, there is danger that if the war is commenced by Salvador, a strong revolution will develop in that country against President Regalado or that if Nicaragua takes the initiative and attempts to attack Salvador, the people of that country will unite as one man in support of President Regalado and Costa Rica will invade Nicaragua from the south.

The United States minister to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Salvador, William L. Merry, is at present temporarily residing in Managua. He is having frequent conferences with President Zelaya, the object of which is said to be the peaceful settlement of the difficulties between the three countries to which he is accredited.

Princeton, N. J., April 10.—Prof Charles A. Young, head of the astronomical department, announced today that Prof William Libbey will go to Wadesboro, N. C., tomorrow to make the preliminary arrangements for the Princeton party, which will view the total eclipse of the sun at that place on May 28. The party will leave Princeton on May 19.

Petersburg, Va., April 10.—Tonight about 10 o'clock the large leaf tobacco factory occupied by W. G. Dunnington & Co., in this city, and containing over a million pounds of the finest tobacco, purchased for the Austrian Government, was, with its contents, totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. Several small houses in the vicinity were also destroyed. The fire originated in the boiler room.

A New Law Wanted

So That Justice May Not be Cheated as in Recent Cases.

Washington, April 13.—Some time ago proceedings were instituted by the department of justice to secure the removal to Savannah, Ga., of Benjamin D. Green, John F. William T. and Edward H. Gaynor and Michael A. Connolly, who were indicted by the grand jury of the United States district court of Georgia for conspiring to defraud the United States upon two contracts relating to harbor improvements at Savannah and Cumberland sound. The United States commissioner at New York, where the defendants were apprehended, held in effect that the certified copy of the Georgia indictment, followed by the identification of the defendants, was sufficient to justify their removal. District Judge Addison Brown, however, held to the contrary and further, that the government was required by affirmative proof, to make out a case of probable guilt and that the defendants were entitled to go fully into defense and to produce evidence on their part to rebut the presumption of guilt raised by the proofs of the government.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE SCANDAL.

Washington, April 12.—In regard to the abolishment of the office of chief inspector and boarding officer of the port of Charleston, Assistant Secretary Spaulding said this morning that it had no political significance whatever, and also that there was no connection with the recent developments in the Charleston Custom House matter. He said the relief of Mr Wilkinson came as the result of the recommendation of two special officers who were sent to inquire into the amount of work done by that office, and they had reported that the business of the Custom House did not warrant the keeping of a boarding officer.

WHAT ALL CHARLESTON KNOWS.

"As far as I know," said Mr Spaulding, "Mr Wilkinson is a man of very good character and he has filled the office of chief inspector and boarding officer very satisfactorily for the department. This move has no political significance and it is only because there is not enough work to be done to keep such an officer busy. The report from Mr Macoe, the special inspector sent to inquire into the alleged hiding of contraband liquor in the Custom House, was just received by me on Tuesday and I have taken no steps in the matter yet. It will be two or three weeks yet before the report is made public and the guilty officers removed, but there was no mention of Mr Wilkinson's name in the report and he had nothing whatever to do with the liquor." R. M. L.

SMALLPOX AT WHITNEY.

Gov McSweeney has received a letter from Mr Jno B. Cleveland, of Spartanburg, in which he says the management had been caring for the smallpox situation at Whitney mills, and believed they had it pretty well under control. He adds that many of the sufferers are poor people. The management is helping them as far as possible, but suggests that the State board give some assistance. Gov McSweeney wrote Mr Cleveland that he had referred the letter to Dr James Evans of the State board.—The State, April 14.

Aiken, April 11.—Two colored prisoners named George and John McHan broke out of the Aiken jail Saturday and escaped. When the jailor brought them their dinner they overpowered him and took his keys and made their way to the yard. Sheriff Alderman has offered \$50 reward for their capture.

Lourenço Marques, April 10.—The French steamer Caravelle, Capt. Loubourbie, from Havre, February 25, has arrived here with one hundred and six passengers, including the Chicago ambulance corps. A majority of the passengers will proceed by train to the Transvaal.

Chesterfield, April 12.—The most sensational trial ever recorded in the history of Chesterfield County has come to an end. Harvey and John Jackson have been found guilty of the murder of Cassie Bono. The jury recommended mercy and their necks are saved.

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